



Global Entrepreneurship Delegation in Porto

In Porto, they Work . . .

A popular description of the various regions in Portugal goes like this: “In Braga they pray, in Coimbra they study, in Porto they work, in Lisboa they govern, and in the Algarve they play.” Porto, Portugal’s second largest city, is industrial heart of the country – a hub for manufacturing

and technology. Porto is further known for its agricultural products and is a major wine producing region within Portugal. It is also home to the University of Porto, Portugal’s largest university with an international reputation for quality research and development.



Delegates linking businesses to their contacts in the United States



Delegates touring the prototype Development laboratory.



Ambassador Sherman speaking with students



Minister of Economy and University of Porto

Delegates began their day with a working breakfast hosted by former Minister of Economy Dr. Daniel Bessa, where they heard pitches from the more established business housed by Business Association for Innovation - COTEC. Delegates advised scalable businesses in the biomedical, agricultural

and food industry, and the green energy fields, making important linkages to their contacts in the United States.

In the afternoon, delegates went to UPTEC, the business incubator associated with the University of Porto. Here they toured UPTEC’s prototype devel-

opment laboratory. The day concluded with a pitch training session with ten of UPTEC’s startups.

A class of twenty American students joined for the UPTEC portion and they gained exposure to the innovation and technology being produced in Porto.

GEP Portugal: By the Numbers

- > Eleven delegates across 8 industries provided mentorship to improve Portugal’s entrepreneurial ecosystem
- > Delegates met with over 400 entrepreneurs and members of the Portuguese business community
- > Stories covering the GEP Portugal delegation had a media reach of over 748,000 people
- > Delegates visited 6 incubators across three of Portugal’s most innovative cities

Delegation Members

- > Paloma Bilson, Protea Group International
- > Victor Da Cruz, C&M Screw Machine Products
- > Michael Freitas Finete, General Mills
- > Kathleen Healy, Golden Seeds Boston
- > Kevin Langley, Ellis Construction
- > Natalia Luis, M. Luis Construction
- > Cidalia Luis-Akbar, M. Luis Construction
- > Manuel Curado de Sousa Mira, TekTone Sound & Signal
- > Phil Meldrum, FoodMatch, Inc.
- > David Moura, ProGroup Contracting
- > Sheri Orlowitz, Artemis Holdings Group
- > Caron De Mars, Department of State

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Intense Enthusiasm

All of the delegates expressed great enthusiasm for the innovation and technology they saw in the north of Portugal and communicated to the Portuguese community how they feel that "Portugal is on the verge of something great." Delegate Michael Finete captured the spirit of the delegation best when speaking to the entrepre-

neurs at UPTEC. He said, "When you are starting your own business, you often feel very alone. You may feel like there is no one you can approach for mentorship. You may feel like there is no one who can give you advice. But let me tell you that is not true. You have an ally in us."



Media Round-Up

- *Visao* (circulation: 85, 110) published an article on the delegation's visit and their mentoring sessions in Lisbon.
- *Diario de Aveiro* (circulation 5, 000) covered the visit of the delegation to the university's incubator and the American Corner program.
- *Jornal de Noticias* (circulation: 65, 389) reported on delegation's program at University of Porto's incubator.
- University of Porto website featured the delegation visit to UPTEC, the university's incubator.

